



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 18, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
860-509-7101**

House Bill 6794 An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendation Regarding Massage Therapist Qualifications.

The Department of Public Health strongly supports House Bill 6794 and would like to thank the Public Health Committee for raising the bill. This bill will revise Connecticut's statutory language regarding qualifications for massage therapists. This revision will permit the Department to continue licensing qualified massage therapists.

The current statute mandates that applicants for massage therapy licensure pass the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork examination which is administered by the National Certification Board of Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCTMB). The Department learned this past fall that NCTMB will stop administering the examination effective March 31, 2015. Should this bill not pass, the Department would no longer be able to issue licenses to new graduates as they won't be able to complete the currently mandated NCTMB examination.

This bill will provide the Department with the authority to prescribe the examination for massage therapists rather than define the examination in statute. As with other professions where the Department has the authority to prescribe examinations, the Department primarily relies on national organizations who administer licensing examinations. Should this bill pass, the Department will prescribe the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards (FSMTB) examination for purpose of obtaining a massage therapist license. The FSMTB offers a psychometrically sound, legally defensible licensing examination that is accepted in 41 states.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.